

Public Hearing of the Burrillville Town Council held Thursday, May 30, 2013 at 7:00 P.M. in Town Council Chambers, 105 Harrisville Main St., Harrisville, for and within the Town of Burrillville.

Present: Councilors Wallace F. Lees, Edward J. Blanchard, Kimberly Brissette Brown, John F. Pacheco III, David J. Place and Stephen N. Rawson

MEMBERS ABSENT: Council President Nancy F. Binns was excused

Relative to discussing the School Department Budget

NOTE: The public hearing was duly advertised in the local section of the Woonsocket Call on May 9, May 13 and May 20, 2013

1. Comments from the Budget Board

Hubert Cournoyer of the Budget Board commended the School Department for spending less than the amount budgeted annually but commented on the difficulty of justifying an increase when each year there is a surplus. Mr. Cournoyer discussed the problem of using surplus funds for operations. Mr. Cournoyer said that the Budget Board's recommendation of .9 percent over FY2013 was an amount sufficient to cover contractual wage increases. Mr. Cournoyer reviewed the Budget Board's other observations and recommendations including health care reimbursement arrangement

plans, changing the healthcare plans, addressing the unfunded liability and considering a sick leave buy-out plan. President Pro Tem Wallace F. Lees thanked the Budget Board for their report.

2. Comments from Dorothy Cardon, Chair, Burrillville School Committee: None

3. Comments from Dr. Frank Pallotta, Superintendent of the Burrillville School Department

Dr. Frank Pallotta, Superintendent of Schools, made a presentation of the School Department's budget request, as outlined in the handout, a copy of which is on file with the record of the meeting. Paul Barrette, School Department Director of Technology and Lois Short, Director of Assessment, Curriculum and Professional Development, explained technology, curriculum and professional development aspects of the proposed budget.

Technology, curriculum, professional development, other programs, federal funding, state funding, contractual increases were discussed.

Dr. Pallotta reviewed the School Department's accomplishments, distributed the facilities assessments, commented on the safety study that is underway and suggested a workshop for further discussion. The undesignated fund balance and intended use of those funds was reviewed. Dr. Pallotta commented on staff

reductions over the past several years and stated that no further reductions could be made.

There was discussion of state aid, future use of the undesignated fund, programs for economizing and further review of the proposed budget.

School Committeeman Raymond Trinke reviewed the curriculum, discussed unfunded liability, reviewed programs that had been eliminated and discussed alternative procedures for student achievement in those areas. Mr. Trinke thanked the Superintendent for his work on the budget.

4. Comments from Michael C. Wood, Town Manager

Michael C. Wood, Town Manager, commented on unfunded liability and explained his method of establishing the budget. Mr. Wood questioned curriculum funding being rolled into the operating budget since it had been identified as a short term expense. Mr. Wood expanded upon his concerns.

Mr. Wood discussed the surplus noting that it is a comparatively small amount on a large budget and commending the School Department for staying within budget. Mr. Wood recommended a side fund be established for unemployment, noting that funds not used would be returned at the end of the year. He commented on the impact.

Michael C. Wood suggested that a \$100,000 budget shortfall could be made up in the operating budget rather than appropriating more money. Dr. Pallotta disagreed.

Councilor Stephen N. Rawson suggested a method of using the School Department surplus to establish a fuel oil fund that could be phased-out over several years to address the current shortfall.

There was discussion that Mr. Wood would prepare options for the Town Council's consideration. The timeframe for budget adoption was reviewed.

5. Public Comment: None

6. VOTED to close the public hearing.

Motion by Councilor David J. Place. Seconded by Councilor Stephen N. Rawson. The vote was unanimous by the six members present. Voting in favor of the motion were Councilors Wallace F. Lees, Edward J. Blanchard, Kimberly Brissette Brown, John F. Pacheco III, David J. Place and Stephen N. Rawson. Council President Nancy F. Binns was excused.

7. Town Council deliberation: None

8. VOTED to adjourn at 8:13 P.M.

Motion by Councilor David J. Place. Seconded by Councilor Stephen N. Rawson. The vote was unanimous by the six members present. Voting in favor of the motion were Councilors Wallace F. Lees, Edward J. Blanchard, Kimberly Brissette Brown, John F. Pacheco III, David J. Place and Stephen N. Rawson. Council President Nancy F. Binns was excused.

The hearing was recorded

Louise R. Phaneuf, Town Clerk